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INTRODUCTION TO DAY 2 OF THE CANADA-U.S. LAW
INSTITUTE CONFERENCE ON “UNDERSTANDING EACH
OTHER ACROSS THE LARGEST UNDEFENDED BORDER IN
HISTORY” AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE LAW SCHOOL,
CLEVELAND, OHIO

APRIL 16, 2005, 9:00 A.M.

Chios Carmody

Well, everybody, good morning on this second morning of our conference. For those of you I haven't met, my name is Chi Carmody, and I am the Canadian Director of the Institute, the Canada-U.S. Law Institute. It is my great pleasure to be able to say a few words to you here this morning.

I'm always very happy to be here in Cleveland, and we are very, very fortunate this year to yet again have some wonderful weather. It has been a terrific opportunity to see everybody again, to meet people, to meet some new faces, to obviously see some old faces, if I can say that, and also to think about the future of the Institute. That has been something that has been very much on our minds over the last couple of years, and certainly, with Henry King's leadership and Dan Ujcz's very able assistance, we and members of the advisory board have been moving forward with plans to continue the work of the Institute in the future.

I can't say how important it is that we continue to have your support, particularly on the Canadian side. I know that we had some discussions over the last few days about the future of the Institute, and it has been evident to me that on the U.S. side, there has been a renaissance of support in terms of funding, in terms of participation, and I don't want to suggest that on the Canadian side we are not doing anything. In fact, I think that we are, and we can be proud of what we're doing. But we do require assistance; we do require support; we do require attendance. And in that connection, I wanted to point out that on the Canadian side for the last year, we have put on something of a more modest production than this one, in Toronto, usually once a year.

On Friday June 10, 2005 in Toronto, we will be hosting a conference entitled “Legal Developments in the North American Transport Industry,” that I will be chairing along with an advisory board member named David Crane, whom many of you know. This one-day event is taking place at Oakham House at Ryerson University in downtown Toronto, and it promises to be an

excellent review of recent developments, legal developments in the transport field, where we have come from, where we are going to in a new era that stresses interconnection in the field of transportation and communication, and also enhanced security concerns. The conference venue itself is a very reasonable one, and we would look forward to your contributions, if not your participation. And so I hope that over the next few weeks, I will be hearing from many of you who will be interested in attending. We will be sending brochures out to all of our attendees to this conference very shortly to move forward with that, and we already have a web site where it is possible to register for that conference.¹

One additional thing that I'd like to say in this opening is that from time-to-time, as the Institute matures, there are inevitably people who are here, who have passed on. And one of the people who has passed on, who was a very vigorous and vital attendee here at this conference in the past, was somebody named Michael Fitz-James. Some of you knew Michael Fitz-James.

Certainly, the Canadians among you will know that he was the editor for a very long time of this periodical, the *LAW TIMES*.² And just two weeks ago on Easter Sunday, Michael Fitz-James, at the very tender age of fifty-four, passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease. Michael was a speaker here. He was a regular attendee, and he was somebody who was very interested in the Canada-U.S. relationship and in the work of this Institute. And it is, indeed, unfortunate that he has passed away, and I wanted to relate that he was somebody who I came to know, not only in the context of this Institute, but also in the context I remember very well of an employment opportunity that I scoped out years ago before I became a lawyer.

And even before that, I was a journalist, and when I was newly returned to Canada after a stint in the United States working for a newspaper in southern California, I actually approached Michael, and this is actually a fairly recent photo of his. Henry actually told me this morning that he had been in touch with Michael about the possibility of attending this conference, and Michael was not able to attend due to his health condition.

But Michael interviewed me. He was a very kind person at a rather uncertain time in my life. This was back in the mid 1980s when I returned to Toronto and was looking for a journalism job. Michael interviewed me, and he was always very interested in my progress. I think he was interested in the progress of a lot of young people.

¹ University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Law, Canada-U.S. Law Institute, <http://www.law.uwo.ca/mainSite/conferences/Transport/webpage.htm> (last visited Aug. 1, 2005).

² *Michael Fitz-James, 1951-2005*, <http://www.lawtimesnews.com/memorial.html> (last visited Aug. 1, 2005).

I wound up going with another shop, ultimately with David [Crane]'s shop, THE TORONTO STAR,³ for a brief time before I went off to law school. But I have to say that, certainly, his interest in my career and his interest - and all of your interest - in the careers and the futures of a lot of young people is something that is, indeed, inspiring. I am glad that those mentorship-type arrangements can take form in a forum like this.

I think it is really terrific that we have students here, people like Matt [Ross], up at the back, who has done such a terrific job in assisting in work of the Institute and many, many others who will be helping out in the coming year. People like Melissa [Kassier], who is here with us this morning, and David [Greenspan], the new incoming Editor in Chief of the Canada-U.S. Law Journal.

So without any further ado, I would like to thank you very much. I would like to thank you for your participation. I hope to see you in Toronto on June 10. It is a Friday. It should be a lovely time of year, and if you have any other questions, please feel free to approach me for the rest of the day. I look forward to meeting and speaking with the rest of you.

Thank you very much.

³ <http://www.thestar.com> (last visited Aug. 1, 2005).

